

FLOOD DRIVES HUNDREDS FROM HOMES ALL DUTCH SHIPS SEIZED BY AMERICA

250 CZECH OFFICIALS DECLARE THEIR RIGHT TO SELF GOVERNMENT

CONSTITUTIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE LANDS OF THE BOHEMIAN CROWN FRAME DECLARATION OF POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE—AUSTRIAN CENSORS TRIED TO SUPPRESS NEWS.

Washington, March 14—Representatives of the Czech nation in Prague have made a public declaration of their nation's unshakable will and unassailable right to self determination and complete political independence from Austria. All reports of the proceedings of the Czech representatives were ordered suppressed by the Austrian censors, but details have reached the Czechoslovak national council here and today were made public.

LABOR TROUBLES TO BE SETTLED BY NEW BUREAUS

Washington, March 14—Plans by which the seven newly organized bureaus of the department of labor are expected to handle all labor problems affecting the war program were outlined by Secretary Wilson today. Each bureau will co-operate directly with the war and navy departments and the shipping board and all difficulties arising in these departments will be referred to one of the seven bureaus.

Charts on the progress of all construction work will be kept by the army, navy and shipping board and any delay due to labor difficulties will be shown in reports to the labor department to be referred to the proper bureau. Thus a question of shortage of labor will go to the employment bureau; a labor dispute to the adjustment bureau; a matter of furnishing homes for workers will be referred to the housing bureau.

HOUSATONIC ICE JAM BREAKS; NO DAMAGE NOTED

Derby, March 14.—Ice in the Housatonic river here and the jam in Lake Housatonic above here went out at midnight without doing damage. On Feb. 26 ice farther up the river, even to the Zear Bridge section, where the Blakesleys are building a dam, broke up and drifted to the head of the lake, forming a great jam.

Fear had been held that when this jam broke it would damage bridges here and especially the temporary bridge between Derby and Shelton and the structure under construction at a cost of \$250,000. But the ice moved out without disturbance.

Much lumber and drift wood brought down from the dam went out with the lake ice.

Paris, March 14.—The appeal of Bolo Pasha from the sentence of death for treason has been rejected by the Court of Revision, which confirmed the original decision.

AIRMEN SHOOT CAVALRY OFFICERS FROM SADDLE

British Front in France, and Belgium, Tuesday, March 12.—(By the Associated Press)—This has been another day of ideal fighting weather, but there has been no change in the situation. The artillery pounds continually and the British airmen have been doing marvelous work.

DISCOVERED BIG DYNAMITE CACHE ON HOG ISLAND

Washington, March 14.—Enough dynamite to blow up half the great ship yard in Hog Island was found there during February, Dudley R. Kennedy, manager of the Industrial Relations Department, told the Senate investigating committee today. Secret service men have been unable to find who placed it there.

Unnaturalized Irishmen in the United States are not subject to the draft. They haven't waited for the draft.

HUN'S BOMBS KILL FIVE CHILDREN

Air Raid on London Causes Death of "1 Man, 1 Woman, 3 Children."

London, March 14.—In last night's air raid one airship crossed the coast and dropped four bombs on Hartlepool. Six dwellings were demolished there, and 30 were damaged. Five persons were killed and nine were injured.

The following official statement was issued: "Only one airship crossed the coast last night. It dropped four bombs on Hartlepool. The raid, which was operating at a great altitude, only remained over land a few minutes, and the remainder of its bombs appear to have fallen into the sea.

"Six dwelling houses were demolished and about 30 were damaged. The latest police reports say that the following casualties occurred: "Killed—One man, one woman, three children; injured, three men, one woman, five children."

PERSHING CITES 42ND. DIVISION; REPULSED HUNS

Washington, March 14.—American troops that repulsed the German raid of March 5 were from the 42nd, or Rainbow division, which is made up of national guardsmen, Gen. Pershing reported today.

The commander of the American division was personally congratulated by Gen. Gerard, commander of the Eighth French army, for the manner in which the Americans conducted themselves.

Gen. Pershing's message, as given out by the war department, follows: "Summary of activities on 42nd (Rainbow) division front, night of 4th and 5th of March:

"Enemy attempted trench raid early morning March 5. Raid was repulsed with losses to the enemy. Our losses reported light, no missing or prisoners. Gen. Gerard, commanding Eighth French army, congratulated division commander on way in which the troops repulsed raid."

HUNGARIANS ARE WANTING PEACE AT ANY PRICE

New York, March 14.—That "many want peace at any price," that the "starvation policy of our enemies has to a certain extent borne fruit," that "hardships are increasing from day to day," and that "it is becoming daily more difficult to maintain the fortitude necessary to carry on the war to a successful termination" were statements made by Count Julius Andrássy, former Hungarian premier, in the Hungarian chamber of deputies on Feb. 6, according to German newspapers received here.

Count Andrássy, in opening his speech said the Constitution party, of which he was the leader, had been dissolved and that the great majority of the members would enter the newly organized government party. Emphasizing the necessity of forming a strong united government party, Count Andrássy said:

"Now is not the time for petty party interests, as the interests of the nation are at stake."

"Many desire peace at any price. That would be the greatest crime against the nation. And those elements who are trying to incite such a peace would suffer the most from it. Peace at any price would destroy the self consciousness of the nation and paralyze its economic life."

Reviewing the Russian peace aims, he said he was convinced that the Bolsheviki were not serious in their peace intentions.

DOUBLE ALLIED MEAT EXPORTS

Washington, March 14.—Meat exports to the Allies will be increased 50 per cent, and perhaps doubled soon under arrangements being negotiated by the food administration with the Allied food representatives here.

The purpose is to build up the Allied meat reserves from the great surplus that has been accumulated in this country and that recently brought a relaxation of restrictions on meat consumption. The Allies would furnish all the ships for moving the meat.

STEAL 125 HENS AND 3 PIGS

Hillside Home Piggery and Chicken Coops Are Cleaned Out.

FOURTH TIME HOME HAS BEEN ROBBED

Pigs Were Used in the Laboratory for Hospital Experiments.

Thursday, March 14
Sometime last night thieves emptied the chicken coops at St. Vincent's hospital of every feathered tenant, and so thorough was their clean-up they did not overlook three guinea pigs which occupied quarters near the chickens. Altogether the thieves got 125 chickens, 25 guinea hens, and the guinea pigs, which were used in the laboratory of the hospital for experimental purposes.

This is the third or fourth time chicken thieves have been busy at St. Vincent's. The last occasion was some months ago. The reserves were called out and surrounded the grounds with the object of bagging the chicken thieves, but when the net was drawn it was discovered the looters had made good their get away.

It was thought the guinea fowl would make such an outcry an alarm would be given if the hen coops were tampered with, but not an attack of the institution heard a sound from the direction of the henhouse last night. When the officials were confronted with the empty coops this morning they thought the matter very mysterious.

From evidence left behind by the thieves, detectives assigned to the case by Captain Edward O. Cronan, chief of the detective bureau, believe they have several good clues which will eventually lead to the arrest of the thieves and put a stop to the campaign of henhouse looting which has been prevalent in and around Bridgeport for some time.

It was rumored the guinea pigs are inoculated with a deadly serum, and that the persons handling them may become infected with the disease, which will lead to the detection of the guilty parties.

The thieves must have had either a wagon or an auto truck fitted with crates to remove so large a number of birds. Beside having means to remove the fowl from the premises they were also equipped with apparatus to stifle any outcry on the part of the chickens. That accounts for the lack of any noise which would have aroused the staff of the hospital.

Persons in the vicinity say that at a late hour last night a large auto truck was seen dashing swiftly away from one of the entrances to the hospital. It is probable this machine was used by the thieves to remove their bulky loot.

SYMPATHY FOR SENTRIES WHO SLEPT ON POST

Four United States sentries on the trench line are condemned to death for sleeping at their posts. Their case will come before President Wilson, who will have in this matter to decide a tragic problem of war policy.

Our boys cannot possibly be secure in their defence unless the sentries are absolutely alert. The sleeper at his post is a peril worse than German shells. For the dead of night when drowsiness steals on the watcher so irresistibly, is just the time the Boches may be coming over the top.

It is desirable to resort to harsh measures only as a last resort. But everyone of our soldiers should realize the terrible results that may follow sleeping at the sentry's post. A whole army might be overwhelmed that way. The sentries should train themselves in ability to keep awake. They can do it if they try, and their lives depend on the ability of every man to do it.

FISH TO COST LESS.

Boston, March 14.—An increase in the supply of fresh fish in New England, with a consequent reduction in prices, was predicted today by Boston fish dealers, as a result of the agreement between the United States and Canada, announced yesterday in Ottawa.

PHONE GIRLS ARE FLOOD HEROINES

Cloudburst in New York State Inundates One-Third of Hornell City.

Rochester, N. Y., March 14.—Scores of families have been driven from their homes and all industries in Hornell are paralyzed as a result of a disastrous flood, due to a cloudburst which swept down the valley of the Cayuga river early this morning, inundating one-third of the city.

The entire factory district is under water and many buildings have been damaged to the extent of many thousands of dollars.

Firemen and policemen have been working for hours in boats rescuing residents from their inundated homes. The number of lives lost is not known. The Erie & Shawmut railroad tracks are under water and no trains are moving over that road.

The floods extend 40 miles down the Canisteo river valley, almost to Corning. Rain continued this morning and the water is still rising.

Soon after the storm broke and a flood was threatened the girls in the Hornell telephone office sent warnings to persons living in the danger districts, probably saving many from harm and possible death.

WAR SECRETARY HAS BUSY TIME WITH STATESMEN

Paris, Tuesday, March 12.—Newton D. Baker, the American Secretary of War, was kept busy today attending the conferences. In the forenoon he conferred with Arthur J. Balfour, the British foreign secretary, and Gen. Foch. Secretary Baker lunched with Gen. Pershing and Bliss, his brother, Henry Baker, and a few other guests.

Early in the afternoon the American war secretary conferred with J. R. Kearny of the public information service, and visited the headquarters of the American Red Cross as the guest of Major Robert P. Perkins, head of the Red Cross mission to Europe.

Afterward the secretary called on former Premier Viviani at his home and then saw Foreign Minister Pichon at the foreign office. The secretary also conferred with Oscar T. Crosby, representative of the American treasury department.

GEN. JOHNSTON DISCUSSES JAPS RUSS INVASION

Boston, March 14.—"It is significant that all the forces in this country opposed to sending Japanese troops into Russia are those that took a pro-German stand on other issues," Brig. Gen. John A. Johnston, commander of the department of the northeast, said today in a statement on the American attitude toward the Russian situation.

"Of course," he continued, "there are other considerations to be taken into account, but that these forces are opposed to it is one good reason, in my mind, why we should be in favor of it. Gen. Ben Butler, when conducting negotiations with the British, used to say: 'If they want it we don't want it. If they don't want it we do.'"

"It is a delicate situation. Russia is our friend and if the Allies go into Russia we should make it clear that it is not to fight Germany there, but to protect our property and our friends. Lieut. Col. William V. Judson, who has just returned from Russia, told me that he had talked with many of the more intelligent Russians of all parties and that without exception they feared Japanese intervention because of the possibility that it might crystallize public opinion in favor of the Germans."

HOSPITAL SHIP ESCAPES U-BOAT

London, March 14.—The hospital ship Guilford was attacked unsuccessfully by a submarine in the Bristol channel on March 10, it was announced officially today.

This is the second submarine attack on British hospital ships recently. A fortnight ago the Glenart Castle was sunk in violation of a German pledge, about 150 lives being lost. Two torpedoes were fired at the Guilford Castle, the first missing and the second hitting the vessel's bow. Although severely damaged, she was able to reach port. There were many sick and wounded on board, who were transferred to a hospital.

ONE MILLION TONS OF SHIPPING IS SECURED BY U. S. AND BRITAIN

SEVENTY PER CENT. OF THE AMOUNT OF SHIPS TO BE TAKEN ARE IN AMERICAN PORTS—NEGOTIATIONS WITH HOLLAND HAVE OUTWORN PATIENCE OF ALLIES.

London, March 14.—Because of the long delays in the negotiations with Holland over Dutch ships in Allied ports and the slowness of the Dutch government to act in this respect, Great Britain and the United States have reached an agreement to end the negotiations and take over all such ships next week for the use of the Allies.

Every precaution will be taken to safeguard the rights of the owners. The ships will be insured and armed, and any ships sunk will be replaced at the earliest possible time after the war.

The amount of tonnage made available to the Allies through the Dutch agreement is 1,000,000 tons of which 70 per cent. is in the United States, 15 per cent. in British ports and 15 per cent. in other Allied ports.

The negotiations with Holland have been in progress for many months, and it was expected that an arrangement would be reached last Christmas. The Germans, however, were continually bringing pressure to bear on Holland, and the delay in reaching an agreement operated continuously to the advantage of Germany and to the disadvantage of the Allies.

Realizing the difficult position of Holland, the Allies decided to force an immediate settlement. While Germany has been obstructing the employment of Dutch tonnage by the Allies, she has been enjoying the use of Dutch barge tonnage on the German canals to an amount greater than the ocean going tonnage that the Allies will obtain under the new arrangement.

In addition to the guarantees for insurance and replacement of the ships, Holland is to receive liberal shipments of breadstuffs and other supplies that she needs badly. It is the full intention of the Allies to use the ships in all the zones, although it was proposed under the original agreement that they should not be sent into the war zone.

Some 80 Dutch ships are already in the American service under a three month agreement with Holland. Taking over of the tonnage would abrogate this arrangement.

There are no indications that the Allied governments will recede from their decision. In fact, a final communication is understood already to have been presented in the Hague by the British and American diplomatic representatives.

Diplomats here have no fears that the taking over of the Dutch ships will force Holland into the war, as has been predicted in some quarters. They are certain that Holland will continue her policy of neutrality.

The taking over of all the Dutch fleets is the greatest move of its kind since the beginning of the war. The American-British decision to take over all Dutch ships in Allied ports for the duration of the war will affect 75 per cent. of the shipping controlled by Dutch interests, according to Adrian Gips, managing director of the Holland-American line, of New York.

Mr. Gips expressed a belief that the "Nieuw Amsterdam," a vessel of 17,250 gross tons, and the largest passenger liner of Dutch ownership afloat, would be excepted from the ruling, as this ship has recently arrived in the United States under a guarantee that he said was given by the American minister to the Netherlands that it would be permitted to return to Holland.

Twelve Dutch ships which had been unable to obtain clearance because of the embargo on neutral shipping imposed by the American government are now on voyages to South American and other ports in the coastwise trade under special agreement which calls for their return with cargoes of sugar and nitrates for American use, Mr. Gips said.

ATTORNEY BOWERS GETS QUARTER OF A MILLION

Spottswood D. Bowers of the law firm, Bowers, Williamson and Cornell of Bridgeport, is heir to one-quarter of the residuary of the estate of his father, John M. Bowers, noted philanthropist and lawyer, whose will was filed in the Surrogate Court in New York yesterday.

It is estimated that the local attorney's share of the estate will be close to \$300,000. The total estate is said to be worth approximately \$1,000,000.

The income of a \$200,000 trust fund is left to the testator's widow, Katherine E. Bowers, who also receives \$10,000 in cash and one-fifth of his personal estate. Henry M. Bowers, son, receives life interest in a \$70,000 fund, and Martha S. Bowers, daughter, is given a bequest of \$5,000. William C. Bowers, brother, is given \$20,000 in cash.

The two daughters, Mary B. Copwell and Mary Dandridge Bowers, both of New York, are each remembered with one-quarter interest in the residuary of the estate and one-eighth each of the personal effects.

The Bridgeport man is bequeathed one-quarter of the residuary and the remaining fifth of the personal estate. He is named executor and trustee.

OLDEST MAN IN CONNECTICUT IS DEAD, AGED 104

Stafford Springs, March 14.—Elder Amos Morse, long a circuit preacher in the Advent faith and the oldest man here, died here today. Had he lived until May 8 he would be 104 years old. Probably he was the oldest man in Connecticut.

Elder Morse had lived with his daughter, Mrs. M. C. J. Walker, here, for the last five years. Always an abstainer from alcohol and tobacco, he had lived his many years with no sickness, and was active physically and mentally until his last days.

Elder Morse used to say that he became convinced of the Second Advent through reading his Bible. When 20 years old he joined the Advent church. He was born in Union and his preaching in later life was in the town thereabouts, he being especially in demand for the camp meetings. He was ordained an elder in 1842 in the Advent branch then known as the Millerites. For 60 years he preached, and his last sermon was on the Springfield camp grounds in 1911.

Mr. Morse went to the Legislature from Union in 1860 and 1861. For some years he lived with a daughter in Akron, Ohio. Of seven children born to him a daughter and son survive.

KERSHAW FAST DRIVEN ASHORE

An Atlantic Port, March 14.—As the result of a rough sea and a strong easterly wind the steamer Kershaw, of the Merchants and Miners' line, which went ashore yesterday off the southern New England coast, was this morning reported to have been driven nearly 100 feet nearer the beach during last night. Only the crew remain on board and wreckers are making ready for another attempt to float the vessel as soon as tide and wind are favorable.

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FIRE FROM CARS HERE HE ROBBED CO. IN HARTFORD

Hartford, March 14.—John Leighton, one of two street car conductors jailed here today for theft of fares, admitted that he had consistently failed to turn in all his money. He came here from Bridgeport, he said, where he worked for the Connecticut street car company and was discharged on suspicion. He also admitted having worked in several cities under other names. On March 9 he held back \$6.72. He was given three months in jail.